

REMARKS

Claims 18-29 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 18-29 are added. The added claims introduce no new matter because they are supported by at least the claims as originally filed. The Specification is also amended to correct informalities. Claims 1-17 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in those claims. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 3, objects to the drawings for informalities. The amendments to the specification obviate these objections. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 4, objects to the specification for informalities. The specification is amended, as suggested by the Office Action, to obviate the objections. Withdrawal of the objections to the specification is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 5, objects to the specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. The cancellation of the subject matter of claims 7 and 13 renders this objection moot.

The Office Action, in paragraphs 7-13, rejects claims 1-11 and 13-17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. The cancellation of claims 1-17 renders these rejections moot. To the extent that the subject matter of pending claims 18-29 incorporates features from the rejected claims, these claims are clarified to obviate like rejections.

The Office Action, in paragraph 15, rejects claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,403,782 to Dixon et al. (hereinafter "Dixon"). The Office Action, in paragraph 18, rejects claims 1, 2, 4, 7-9, 11, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP-U-57-59500 (hereinafter "JP

'500") in view of JP-A-2003-112532 (hereinafter "JP '532"). The Office Action, in paragraph 30, rejects claims 3, 10 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP '500 and JP '532 in view of Marks' Standard Handbook for Mechanical Engineers, Section 4.3. The Office Action, in paragraph 36, rejects claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP '500 and JP '532 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,059,167 to Byles. The Office Action, in paragraph 39, rejects claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP '500 and JP '532 in view of U.S. patent No. 5,045,971 to Ono et al. (hereinafter "Ono"). The Office Action, in paragraph 41, rejects claims 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP '500 and JP '532 in view of Dixon. These rejections are rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1-17. To the extent, however, that the subject matter of pending claims 18-29 incorporates features previously recited in claims 1-17 the following analysis applies.

Claims 18 and 24 recite, among other features, an electric connection box comprising: an on-vehicle circuit unit that includes a circuit board having a power circuit and a heat radiating member having an inner surface to which the circuit board is fixed in a manner that enables heat conduction and an outer surface that is as a heat radiating surface; and a case other than the heat radiating member, the case incorporating the on-vehicle circuit unit and other circuit components while exposing the outer surface of the heat radiating member to an outside of the case, wherein the case has a mounting portion which is fixed to the engine room to make the outer surface of the heat radiating member face an inner surface of the engine room with a clearance between the heat radiating member and the inner surface of the engine room. This configuration promotes heat radiation from the heat radiating member on the on-vehicle circuit unit while incorporating and protecting the unit together with other circuit components within the case.

Neither Dixon nor JP '500 include any enclosure in the nature of an electric connection box. These references fail to disclose a case to incorporate an on-vehicle circuit unit and other circuit components in the manner recited in the pending claims. Further, the additionally-applied references do not make up for shortfalls in the application of Dixon or JP '500 to the subject matter of the pending claims.

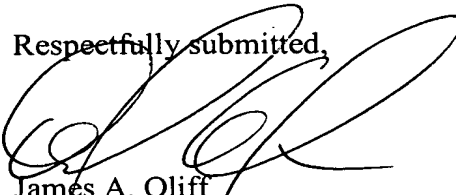
JP '532 discloses an ECU case. The case 8, however, of JP '532 does not incorporate an on-vehicle circuit unit having both a circuit board and a heat radiating member with an inner surface to which the circuit board is fixed and an outer surface functioning as a heat radiating surface so as to expose the radiating member of the circuit unit. Case 8 in JP '532 incorporates a circuit board, but the circuit board has no heat radiating member. Therefore, the case 8 of JP '532 cannot be considered to correspond to the combination of all of the features positively recited in the pending claims. Although JP '532 separately discloses a radiating fin 13, the fin 13 does not constitute an on-vehicle circuit unit incorporated together with other components in the case 8, but is rather integrally formed in the case 8. As such, JP '532 does not disclose the feature positively recited in the pending claims.

Ono also discloses a case 117 that incorporates a module 103b. However, the module 103b is not an on-vehicle circuit unit which includes a circuit board having a power circuit and a heat radiating member having an inner surface to which the circuit board is fixed for heat conduction and an outer surface that is a heat radiating surface. There is no suggestion in Ono that case 117, therefore, incorporates all of the features positively recited in independent claims 18 and 24.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 18 and 24, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the currently-applied references.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 18-29 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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